

REVISION – IMAGERY FROM MEMORY

- What are the six kinds of imagery in Macbeth mentioned on Friday?
- Which of these kinds of imagery does Shakespeare use to suggest his unsuitability for the role of King?
- What kinds of animals are referred to most often in the play? (eg: more than once)
- Why does Macbeth refer to balms, lotions and potions so much?
- Name three important scenes that occur at night

ANSWERS

- Black and red, Light and darkness, Sickness and disease, Blood, Garments, Animals
- Garments
- Snakes and scorpions, birds (owl, hawk, falcon)
- He longs for an antidote to his madness
- Witches scenes, Duncan's murder, Banquo's murder, Banquet scene, Lady and Mac's talks late at night



SHAKESPEARIAN STRUCTURE



THE USUAL MODEL

- **Act I – Exposition** - we are introduced to main characters, the scene is set, the tone established
- **Act II – Development** – the plot thickens... themes become more evident. Relationships intensify
- **Act III – Crisis / complication / climax** – A part of the play that profoundly affects the future direction of the play. Crucial scene often at midpoint of play
- **Act IV – Denouement** – moment of understanding following the play's moment of highest tension
- **Act V – Resolution** – cleaning of loose ends and glimpse of a new order. A sense of hope

HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS TO MACBETH?

- **Act I** – scene set – Scottish civil war. External conflict preceding internal conflicts to come. Dark evil tone established by witches. We meet Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Duncan, Banquo – but not Macduff.
- **Act II** – First murder. Themes of evil, ambition, power, appearance versus reality developing. We learn more about characters – begin to see both Macbeths weaknesses.
- **Act III** – Banquo murdered. Banquet scene – public opinion of Macbeth begins to shift. He 'sees' a river of blood and decides to keep wading in it, making a conscious decision to be evil. Decides to revisit witches.
- **Act IV** – Moment of understanding – Macduff's wife and bairns (children) murdered – they realise the only way to rid Scotland of its sickness is to take revenge on Macbeth's foul murders
- **Act V** – Justice and order restored – Macbeth beheaded, Malcolm crowned king.

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO NOTE ABOUT STRUCTURE?

■ **Foreshadowing**

- Scottish civil war foreshadows conflicts to come
- Macbeth's first utterance foreshadows what he will become (1.3)
- Bloody hands in 2.2 foreshadow 'Out, damned spot!'
- Macbeth's vision that 'Macbeth shall sleep no more' (2.2) foreshadows his insomnia
- Storm in 2.1 foreshadows the disturbance of the natural order of things

■ **Soliloquys**

- Where they are placed is of utmost importance
- No major soliloquys after pivotal scene – only minor one at end when Macbeth's character begins to redeem himself (5.3 'Out, out, brief candle...')

PAST ESSAY QUESTIONS ON STRUCTURE AND IMAGERY...

■ **Structure**

- Analyse how links between the beginning and the end of a text helped you understand a main theme or issue
- Explain and discuss in detail how the beginning and ending of your studied texts were important
- Analyse how the author's presentation of One important section/ part changed your opinion about a character / individual OR issue
- Analyse how the ending of the text helped you to understand the purpose of the text more clearly

■ **Imagery**

- Analyse what techniques were used to strongly affect your emotions in one or two key sections